

of need (see part 11), the solicitation, and resulting contract.

(b) The description of agency need must contain sufficient detail for potential offerors of commercial items to know which commercial products or services may be suitable. Generally, for acquisitions in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold, an agency's statement of need for a commercial item will describe the type of product or service to be acquired and explain how the agency intends to use the product or service in terms of function to be performed, performance requirements or essential physical characteristics. Describing the agency's needs in these terms allows offerors to propose methods that will best meet the needs of the Government.

(c) Follow the procedures in subpart 11.2 regarding the identification and availability of specifications, standards and commercial item descriptions.

[60 FR 48241, Sept. 18, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 264, Jan. 2, 1997]

#### **12.203 Procedures for solicitation, evaluation, and award.**

Contracting officers shall use the policies unique to the acquisition of commercial items prescribed in this part in conjunction with the policies and procedures for solicitation, evaluation and award prescribed in part 13, Simplified Acquisition Procedures; part 14, Sealed Bidding; or part 15, Contracting by Negotiation, as appropriate for the particular acquisition. The contracting officer may use the streamlined procedure for soliciting offers for commercial items prescribed in 12.603. For acquisitions of commercial items exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold but not exceeding \$5,000,000, including options, contracting activities shall employ the simplified procedures authorized by subpart 13.6 to the maximum extent practicable.

[60 FR 48241, Sept. 18, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 264, Jan. 2, 1997]

#### **12.204 Solicitation/contract form.**

(a) The contracting officer shall use the Standard Form 1449, Solicitation/Contract/Order for Commercial Items, if (1) the acquisition is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition thresh-

old; (2) a paper solicitation or contract is being issued; and (3) procedures at 12.603 are not being used. Use of the SF 1449 is nonmandatory but encouraged for commercial acquisitions not exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold.

(b) Consistent with the requirements at 5.203 (a) and (h), the contracting officer may allow fewer than 15 days before issuance of the solicitation.

[62 FR 264, Jan. 2, 1997]

#### **12.205 Offers.**

(a) Where technical information is necessary for evaluation of offers, agencies should, as part of market research, review existing product literature generally available in the industry to determine its adequacy for purposes of evaluation. If adequate, contracting officers shall request existing product literature from offerors of commercial items in lieu of unique technical proposals.

(b) Contracting officers should allow offerors to propose more than one product that will meet a Government need in response to solicitations for commercial items. The contracting officer shall evaluate each product as a separate offer.

(c) Consistent with the requirements at 5.203 (b) and (h), the contracting officer may allow fewer than 30 days response time for receipt of offers for commercial items.

[60 FR 48241, Sept. 18, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 264, Jan. 2, 1997]

#### **12.206 Use of past performance.**

Past performance should be an important element of every evaluation and contract award for commercial items. Contracting officers should consider past performance data from a wide variety of sources both inside and outside the Federal Government in accordance with the policies and procedures contained in subpart 9.1, section 13.106-2, or subpart 15.3, as applicable.

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EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 62 FR 51270, Sept. 30, 1997, in section 12.206, "15.6" was amended to read "15.3", effective Oct. 10, 1997.